

Protected Areas Infrastructure Assessment Specialists Tanzania

OPPORTUNITY: The US Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP) is seeking individuals with expertise in physical infrastructure assessment, particularly related to protected areas. This recruitment is intended to develop a roster of available candidates who could serve on a DOI-ITAP team in the coming months. Targeted infrastructure may include, but is not limited to roads, bridges, gates, ranger posts, trails, camping and picnic sites, administration offices, fencing, and canals. Efforts may include assessing existing infrastructure (for energy efficiency, safety, aesthetics, etc) and recommending the development of additional infrastructure.

From this recruitment, DOI-ITAP specialists will work as part of multi-disciplinary teams of approximately 2-4 persons to advise Government of Tanzania counterparts regarding infrastructural needs within Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). While the specifics of the detail will be formalized during pre-trip planning efforts between the team and Tanzanian partners, the infrastructure assessment specialists may be expected to address the following key areas:

- Carrying out of needs assessments
- Preparation of layout and site plans for various infrastructure

The types of infrastructure and activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Road networks and bridges inside the WMAs
- Ranger posts
- Entry gates
- Offices, armories, detention rooms and stores for the WMAs
- Visitor and information centers to serve also as market centers for the promotion of various products from the WMAs
- Designating and marking walking trails
- Designating local tourist camping and/or picnic sites
- Scoping canals for canoeing

Infrastructure specialists are expected to work with an array of partners, incorporate the needs of local rural communities into infrastructure needs assessments, and do so within a brief period of time. Given these constraints, specialists are expected to contact, coordinate with, and thoroughly understand the needs and requirements of their Tanzanian counterparts and other in-country partners in the weeks preceding travel.

Specialists are then expected to travel to Tanzania, to one or more of the following WMAs:

- Ikona
- Burunge
- Pawaga-Idodi (MBOMIPA)

- Enduimet
- Ipole

While on-site, specialists will perform infrastructure needs assessments and/or carry out needed infrastructure design work for one or more of the key areas listed above.

BACKGROUND: DOI-ITAP provides assistance to developing countries on subjects of Departmental expertise on a reimbursable basis. The program is currently operating across the globe with support from organizations such as the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

DOI-ITAP has worked at a number of locations in Tanzania since 1997. Technical assistance activities have touched on a variety of themes, including law enforcement training for rangers, design and construction of roads within protected areas, management of marine protected areas, tourism planning, and environmental interpretation activities.

DOI-ITAP's current effort is part of the larger WMA Conservation Corps program. The main objective of this program is to generate employment opportunities in rural areas and to enable local households to receive incomes that would assist them to cope with the pressures of the on-going global financial and economic crisis. Other objectives include:

- Contributing to improvement of infrastructure in the WMAs
- Enhancing the conservation of biodiversity in the WMAs
- Increasing accessibility to the WMAs and increasing the attractiveness of the WMAs to both investors and visitors

In the long-term, the WMA Conservation Corps would support ongoing conservation efforts and could further create a conducive environment for local households to invest the revenue they would get from a cash-for-work program in productive activities, thus generating more wealth into the local economy.

The performance of any WMA depends on the availability, effectiveness, and reliability of the infrastructure that supports conservation and provides opportunities to rural households to earn more income from tourism. The infrastructure, as previously noted, include roads, offices, visitor centers, ranger posts, entry gates, air strips (where appropriate and necessary), walking trails, picnic and camp sites, and anti-poaching equipment and signage.

This assignment addresses capacity-building within the Wildlife Division of the Tanzanian Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

ASSIGNMENT: Details will be conducted on an ongoing basis. The duration of each on-site detail will be approximately 2 weeks, focusing on collaboration with multiple stakeholders and partners and visits to field locations. Significant planning, research, and coordination time will be required at the home duty station for pre-trip preparation, and additional time will be necessary for post-trip follow-up activities (e.g. final trip report,

recommendations, and design work). While in Tanzania, the DOI specialists selected for this assignment will work closely with the appropriate contacts within the Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, as well as NGO partners.

SCHEDULE: The assignments are expected to occur throughout 2010 with dates set that are amenable to selected candidates, their supervisors, and our Tanzanian partners.

PRE- AND POST-TRIP DUTIES: All travel and in-country logistics will be handled by DOI-ITAP. Background materials will be provided to the selected individuals prior to the trip. The selected individuals will be expected to work in collaboration with the DOI-ITAP manager on the preparation and follow-up for the technical assistance via phone and email.

Given the need to perform valuable and accurate assessments quickly, this assignment (a) requires significant pre-trip research and coordination activities with Government of Tanzania counterparts and other in-country partners and (b) may require significant post-trip reporting and coordination activities with Government of Tanzania counterparts and other partners. Pre-trip activities will begin in the weeks leading up to travel to Tanzania.

Within 3 weeks of the completion of the trip, the team will provide the DOI-ITAP manager a brief draft report focusing on the trip events, evaluations, and recommendations for future related policy development.

COSTS: DOI-ITAP will cover all travel costs associated with this assignment (round-trip airfare, lodging, meals, immunizations, per diem, etc.). DOI-ITAP will reimburse the salaries of the team members to their employing DOI agency for the duration of the international assignment, including pre- and post-trip obligation.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Persons wishing to be considered for this assignment:

- Preference given to current or retired DOI employees and other USG employees.
- Must have an extensive professional background in planning, assessing, and developing infrastructure, including roads, bridges, gates, ranger posts, trails, camping and picnic sites, and/or canals.
- Experience in teaching, advising, and mentoring is desirable for all applicants.
- Experience as a landscape architect or engineer is highly desirable
- Experience in project management is desirable
- Must have a demonstrated ability to work with and adapt to the needs and abilities of agencies and professionals of different ethnic or cultural groups.
- Must have demonstrated ability to coordinate with multiple partners and stakeholders.
- Previous international experience is desirable.

Upon selection, candidates must submit a current physician-signed letter or medical review form indicating fitness-for-duty.

If you are selected for this assignment, you will be responsible for obtaining your supervisor's approval to participate in this program.

HOW TO APPLY

Persons interested in being considered for this international assignment should send a résumé or letter summarizing relevant work experience. A form SF-171 is acceptable. Please submit applications (electronically is preferred) to:

Levi White, Project Specialist
Office of International Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW MS-3530
Washington, DC 20240
Tel: (202) 208-3751
Fax: (202) 501-6381
E-mail: levi.white@ios.doi.gov

Please contact Barbara Pitkin, DOI-ITAP Program Manager (Barbara_Pitkin@ios.doi.gov; 202/208-5221) or Marc Weitzel (marc_weitzel@fws.gov; 805/644-5185) with any questions.

All applications should be submitted as soon as possible but no later than COB November 30, 2009.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis.

NPS applicants must be mindful of NPS policy that prohibits NPS employees from travelling twice on ITAP assignments in any given 12-month period.

All NPS applicants should also copy their applications to Rudy D'Alessandro (rudy_dalessandro@nps.gov) in the NPS Office of International Affairs.

Application Process

A shortlist of candidates will be interviewed by telephone. The entire selection process may take several weeks. All candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process by telephone, e-mail, or letter.

This position is open to all applicants who meet the stated requirements.